



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Please read this letter

December 21, 2009

Dear Family,

We are writing this update about Pennsylvania's new Autism Insurance Law. (also known as Act 62). This law requires certain private health insurance plans to cover a broad range of services for children and adolescents on the autism spectrum who are under 21 years of age.

Act 62 went into effect in July 2009 and we have gotten off to a relatively good start. We have been working closely with private health insurers, Medical Assistance behavioral health plans and autism service providers. While there are still issues to be worked out, children are receiving services, providers are being paid, and the Medical Assistance program remains as the payor of last resort.

We know that many insurance policies renew in January of each year. This means more services will soon be billed to private insurance for autism assessment and treatment services. We are writing today to highlight several things that families can do to get ready for the transition. Much of this information can also be found on the Pennsylvania Autism Insurance website: www.PAAutismInsurance.org.

1. If you have not already done so, find out if the new law applies to your child. The attached flow chart "Does the PA Autism Insurance Act Apply to My Child?" will help.

If the new law applies to your child's private health insurance plan, your insurer will be required to cover certain diagnostic and treatment services for autism up to \$36,000 per year effective on the date your private health insurance policy is offered, issued or renewed. You will want to know your renewal date ahead of time so that you can plan ahead with your child's providers.

2. Ask your child's service providers whether they are planning to join your child's private health insurance plan. Private health insurance plans covered by the new law have to accept any autism service provider that agrees to accept that plan's payment levels, terms and conditions and was enrolled in the Medical Assistance program as of July 9, 2008. If your provider has trouble enrolling and cannot resolve the problem with the private health insurance company, your provider can call for help at 717-787-0636.

If your child's service provider is not planning to join the private health insurance plan that covers your child, contact that private health insurance company to find out what other providers will accept your child's private health insurance. IMPORTANT: If your child's provider does not accept your child's private health insurance plan, Medical Assistance will not pay that provider. You should also contact your child's Medical Assistance care manager at CBH, CBHNP, CCBH, Magellan or Value (except for children enrolled in the Health Insurance Premium Program (HIPP)). Contact numbers for help can be found on the attached pages.

Enclosed are some tips on "Preparing for the New Autism Insurance Law (Act 62) – What Families Need to Do Now." We want to keep working with Pennsylvania families to make sure that children with autism get the insurance coverage necessary for their needs.

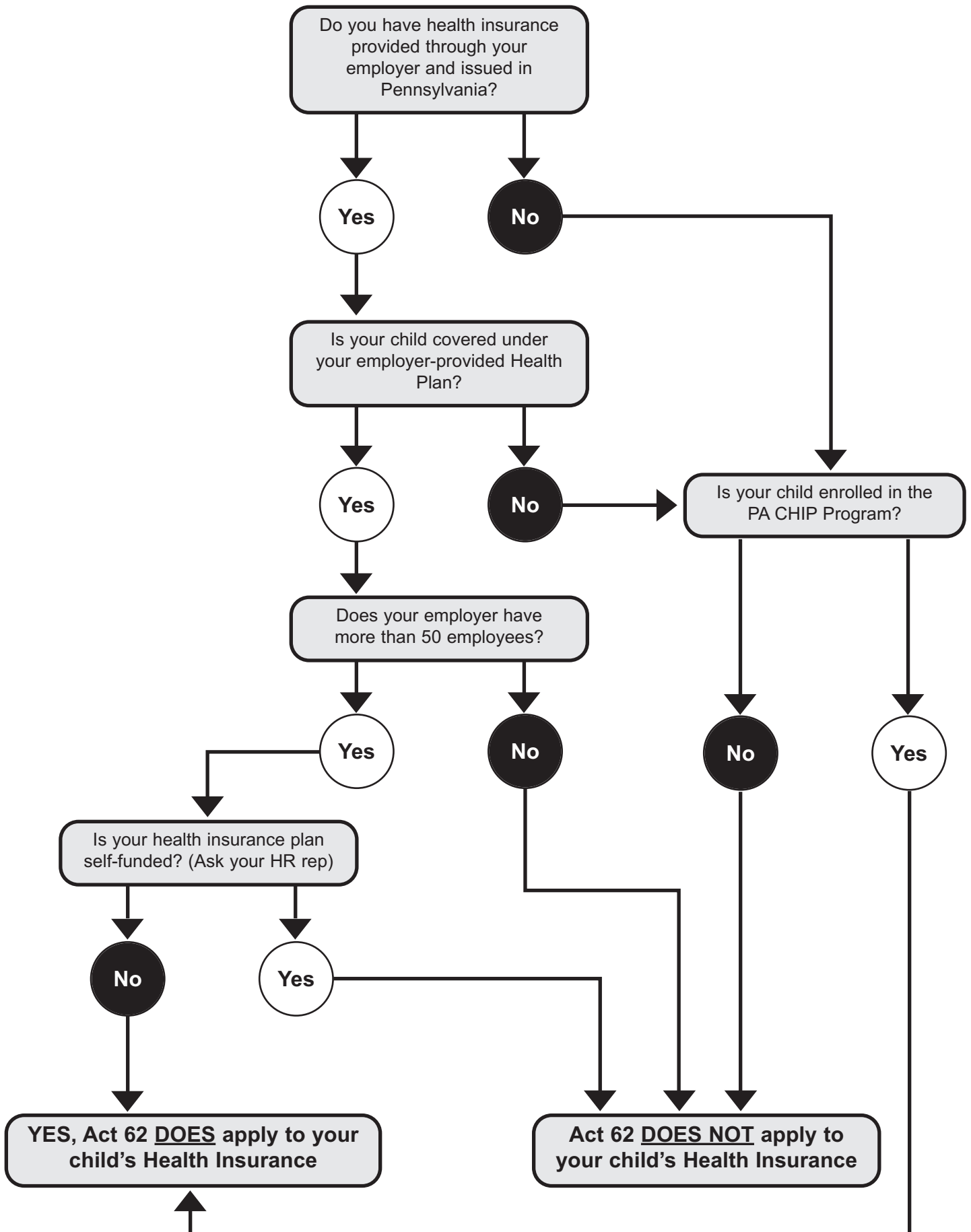
Sincerely,

Estelle B. Richman



Secretary
Department of Public Welfare

Does the PA Autism Insurance Act Apply to My Child?



Where to get help with Pennsylvania's Autism Insurance Law

For any kind of question: Act 62 E-mailbox:
ra-in-autism@state.pa.us

For background, FAQs, and updates:
www.PAAutismInsurance.org

For questions or concerns about insurance related issues:
Contact Pennsylvania Insurance Department - Consumer Services Line

HARRISBURG
Room 1209 Strawberry Sq
Harrisburg State Office Bldg. #1
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: (717) 787-2317
Fax: (717) 787-8585

PITTSBURGH
Room 304 State Office Bldg.
300 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: (412) 565-5020
Fax: (412) 565-7648

PHILADELPHIA
Room 1701 State Office Bldg.
1400 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: (215) 560-2630
Fax: (215) 560-2648

For questions or concerns about Medical Assistance behavioral health services
Contact Behavioral Health Managed Care Contacts - Member Services Line

Community Behavioral Health

Philadelphia County: 1-888-545-2600

Community Care Behavioral Health

Main Number 1-888-251-2224

Adams and York counties: 1-866-738-9849

Allegheny County: 1-800-553-7499

Berks County: 1-866-292-7886

Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield,

Columbia, Elk, Forest, Huntingdon, Jefferson,

Juniata, McKean, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland,

Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union,

Warren and Wayne counties: 1-866-878-6046

Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties: 1-866-473-5862

Chester County: 1-866-622-4228

Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wyoming
counties: 1-866-668-4696

Magellan Behavioral Health

Bucks County: 1-877-769-9784

Delaware County: 1-888-207-2911

Lehigh County: 1-866-238-2311

Montgomery County: 1-877-769-9782

Northampton County: 1-866-238-2312

Value Behavioral Health

Armstrong County: 1-877-688-5969

Beaver County: 1-877-688-5970

Butler County: 1-877-688-5971

Cambria County: 1-866-404-4562

Crawford, Mercer and Venango: 1-866-404-4561

Erie County: 1-866-404-4560

Fayette County: 1-877-688-5972

Greene County: 1-877-688-5973

Indiana County: 1-877-688-5974

Lawrence County: 1-877-688-5975

Washington County: 1-877-688-5976

Westmoreland County: 1-877-688-5977

Community Behavioral Healthcare Network of PA

Bedford and Somerset counties: 1-866-773-7891

Blair County: 1-866-773-7892

Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and
Perry counties: 1-888-722-8646

Franklin and Fulton counties: 1-866-773-7917

Lycoming and Clinton counties: 1-866-773-7991

Member Services for Fee For Service Act 62 families: 1-877-356-5355 option #5

Preparing for the New Autism Insurance Law (Act 62)

What Families Need to Do Now

If your child has received services for an autism spectrum disorder paid for by Medical Assistance and has other health insurance coverage, please read this carefully. A new state law (Act 62) requires some private health insurance plans to cover a broad range of services for children and adolescents under 21 on the autism spectrum. If the new law applies to your child's private health insurance, your child's service provider will need to bill that private health insurance plan. Medical Assistance will still be available for certain services that your private health insurance plan does not cover. These steps will help you find out whether this new law applies to your child and, if it does, how you can start to prepare.

- 1.** Find out if the law applies to your child. Use the chart on the back to find this out. If the law does not apply, your child's services will not be affected.
- 2.** If the law applies, find out when your child's health insurance policy renews. Contact your company's Human Resources department or the person who handles the health benefits for your child's private health insurance plan. The law will not apply to your child until your child's private health insurance policy renews. The earliest it will apply is July 1, 2009. The majority of private health insurance policies will renew on January 1, 2010. You may also want to ask if the employer intends to stay with the same private health insurer.
- 3.** Give a copy of both sides of your child's private health insurance card to his or her service provider(s) with a written note that tells the provider when that private health insurance policy renews. This will help your provider know what private health insurance plan to join.
- 4.** Ask your child's service provider(s) whether they are planning to join your child's insurance plan. Private health insurance plans covered by the new law have to accept any autism service provider that agrees to accept that plan's payment levels, terms and conditions and was enrolled in the Medical Assistance program as of July 9, 2008. Providers do not have to sign up with any private health insurance plan, so you will want to find out what your provider plans to do.
- 5.** If your child's service provider(s) is planning to join your child's private health insurance plan, ask if they have the information they need about how the private health insurance plan approves services. This process may be different than the process currently used by Medical Assistance to approve your child's services.
- 6.** Double check with your child's private health insurance plan to find out if it can give you any information about how it approves services. You should keep a copy of your child's medical records and treatment plans as well as IEPs (if applicable) to help you during the transition period.
- 7.** Your service provider must be enrolled in your child's private health insurance plan in order for Medical Assistance to pay any portion of the cost such as copayments. If your child's service provider is not planning to join your child's private health insurance plan, contact your child's private health insurance company to find out what other providers are enrolled.

**If you have other questions, you can send them to ra-in-autism@state.pa.us.
Also check www.PAAutismInsurance.org for more information.**